UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10/800,280 | 03/12/2004 | Thomas S. Neal | 200314060-1 | 1301 |

22879 7590 10/19/2005

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| WRIGHT, INGRID D | |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2835 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 10/800,280 | NEAL ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Ingrid Wright | 2835 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 March 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 March 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Liao et al. US 6272104 B1.

With respect to claims 1-10, Liao et al. teaches a post 49 for retaining an item 17 in a storage compartment 36 having a side, the post comprising: a body operable to hold the item; and a coupling element 45,44 operable to couple the body to the side of the storage compartment 36 and to allow the post 49 to be positioned relative to the side in at least two different positions (see, for example, fig. 5) wherein the body is releasably fastened to the side of the storage compartment 36, wherein the body is pivotable relative to the side of the storage compartment 36, wherein the coupling element 45,44 includes a locking element 50 operable to retain the body in at least one positions, wherein the at least two different positions include a position where the body is substantially perpendicular to the side and another position where the body is substantially parallel with the side, wherein the coupling element 45,44 includes a protrusion insertable into a hole, wherein the coupling element 45,44 includes a

protrusion extending from the body, and a hole in the side of the storage compartment 36 operable to receive the protrusion, wherein the body is insertable into a hole of the storage disc 17, wherein the body is insertable into a hole of the storage disc, and includes a shoulder to support the storage disc 17 away from the side, wherein: the body includes a first component and a second component, and the coupling element 45,44 includes: a first element operable to couple the first component to the side of the storage compartment 36 and to allow the first component to be positioned relative to the side in at least two different positions, and a second element operable to couple the second component to the side of the storage 36 and to allow the second component to be positioned relative to the side in at least two different positions.

With respect to claims 11-13, Liao et al. teaches a storage compartment 36 comprising a bottom and a sidewall that define an interior, and a post 49 operable to retain a storage disc 17, and including, a body operable to engage the storage disc 17; and a coupling element 45,44 operable to couple the body to the bottom of the storage compartment 36 and to allow the body to be positioned relative to the bottom in at least two different positions, wherein one position of the body extends from the bottom into the interior substantially perpendicular to the bottom, wherein one position of the body is disposed in a receptacle of the bottom, below a surface of the bottom.

Regarding the method claims 14-20, the method steps recited in the claims are inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by Liao et al. Liao et al. disclosed a body positioned of a post 49 relative to a side of a storage compartment 36; and engaging a hole in the disc with the body, wherein the positioned post 49 included the post 49 relative to the side pivoted, wherein the body is retained in the position, wherein the disc 17 is supported away from the side, wherein the hole in the disc 17 disengaged from the body; wherein the body repositioned relative to the side; and another item is placed in the storage compartment 36, wherein the body is positioned relative to the side included the post 49 relative to the side pivoted, the body repositioned relative to the side included the body disposed below a surface of the side in a receptacle.

With respect to claim 21, Liao et al. teaches a housing 16 having a storage compartment 36 to retain an item 17 and including: a bottom and a sidewall that define an interior, and a post operable to retain a storage disc 17, and having: a body operable to engage the storage disc 17; and a coupling element 45,44 operable to couple the body to the bottom of the storage compartment 36 and to allow the body to be positioned relative to the bottom in one, not two different positions or a processor 11 disposed in the housing 16.

***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Bonn et al. US 6490242 B1 and Lim et al. US 6164614 show the state of the art regarding disk storage compartment configurations.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571) 272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571) 272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

10/14/05
IDW

LISA LEA-EDMONDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER